

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am reluctantly returning Senate Bill 414 without my signature.

I strongly support the continuation of the Mathematics and Reading Professional Development Program. This program provides training to teachers that is aligned to California's rigorous academic standards and has been a major component of the state's education reforms.

Unfortunately, this bill contains two significant drafting flaws. First, it would allow school districts to claim funding for the same hours of staff development under both this program and the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program. Second, it reinstates the Instructional Time and Staff Development Reform (staff development buy-back days) program, which had previously been eliminated and its funding consolidated into a staff development block grant, without backing this funding out of the block grant. Both of these would result in districts being "double-funded" for the same activity.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill in its current form. However, I request that the Legislature work with my Administration to eliminate these problems and introduce and pass urgency legislation extending this program's sunset date beyond its current date of June 30, 2006.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger